

Spirit of Religious Intolerance.

TOWNSEND HOUSE, S. L. CITY,
Feb. 13.

To the Editor of the Omaha Herald:

Portentous news from Washington has reached and spread over Utah. Already ominous clouds darken the horizon, while in the humid atmosphere gleams of lurid lightning, and the reverberations of distant thunder betoken a storm of violence. May Heaven avert the impending blow from this unfortunate people. It is natural that the Mormons should feel anxious and uneasy, since the attitude of the Federal government towards them is so threatening and belligerent; an attitude unwarrantable, and calculated to produce the most disastrous results to the religious practices and institutions of this Territory. Such a position as is assumed by the government towards Utah, not only alarms the Mormons, but strikes regret and apprehension in the breast of every sober minded citizen of Utah.

America, the long and loud boasted cradle of liberty—the land whose supreme law declares that Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, now becomes an anarchy, despotism and supreme, deriding the law and defying the people. Such a change in the state of our government is sufficient cause of fear and alarm, not only to the Mormons, but to every free born American citizen.

MR. CLAGETT AND MR. MERRITT.

The position of these gentlemen is not to be envied. The former gentleman, in his speech upon the bill "to enable the people of Colorado to form a State government," distinguished himself for anything but truthfulness. Any gentleman who will stoop to base falsehood, misstatements and misrepresentations, to strengthen and fortify his position and carry his points, and that, too, upon the floor of our national legislature, deserves not the name of man, and should be execrated by all citizens. That Mr. Clagett freely indulged in falsehoods and misrepresentations, is known to every citizen in Utah, and every attorney in the Territory knows that at least one-half of Mr. Clagett's quotations from the "codified laws of Utah" were quoted from laws that had been repealed years ago. Mr. Clagett declares that "there is in Utah a one man despotism which strikes down freedom of speech, strikes down freedom of worship, strikes down freedom of business relations," etc. Again "In other words, there is no basis in Utah for a republican form of government, a government of the people, by the people and for the people. No doubt the gentleman is a lover of the government when it is of, by and for the people, and also loves the law and conforms thereto, yet this same stentorian declaimer, with his friend and companion in this matter, Mr. Merritt, get up and introduce in Congress a bill that is not simply a drive at Polygamy, but attacks and destroys the liberties of the people, convicts fifty thousand American citizens of crime without "due process of law," takes away their suffrage and utterly annihilates the entire people without even giving them an opportunity to vindicate themselves or correct that which is obnoxious to the Federal Government by legislative enactment. A bill revolutionary in itself, and one which establishes a precedent dangerous to the liberties of the American people. Strange is it that in this age of progress and intelligence, of enlightenment and freedom, of Christianity and harmony, that religious intolerance and hatred should rear themselves and incongruous companions of the nobler and grander concomitants of the age. But "history repeats itself," and these gentlemen, Messrs. Clagett and Merritt, have but resurrected that long-buried spirit which was born in the days of Herod; that spirit which established the "Spanish Inquisition," that spirit which in 1571, at the Council of the Sorbonne, under the influence of the French monarch, declared "that flames, not reasoning," ought to be employed against the arrogance of Luther and his adherents; that spirit which on the 24th day of August, 1572, murdered 50,000 unoffending people, and rendered memorable to all eternity St. Bartholomew's Day; and the reign of Charles the Ninth (and Catharine, his mother) King of France; that spirit of religious fanaticism, which sunk into oblivion in the 15th century, receiving its final death blow by the establishment of the Constitution of the United States as the supreme law of the land.

A GLANCE AT THE MORMON.

It is only necessary to go back in memory to the year 1836, to trace this peculiar and unfortunate people from the time they began to attract attention in this country to the present day. We find them early settlers in the wilds of Missouri and Illinois. Disturbed in these localities, they in 1846 took up their march westward, and in this year we find them encamped upon the present site of Council Bluffs in Iowa. While stopping at the last named place a circumstance occurred worthy of relating. It was in the year that we went to war with Mexico, and the President requested the Mormons to furnish five hundred of their strongest young men to march to Mexico and do battle for the United States. The request was cheerfully complied with, and the desired number of the truest and bravest young men belonging to the Mormons marched overland to California and did their duty nobly.

In the year 1847, the Mormons arrived at this place. At that early day this luxurious valley was but a dreary unproductive desert, walled in by the Wasatch and Oquirrh mountains. At that time all of this Territory belonged to Mexico. No doubt the Mormons chose this secluded spot for their habitation to escape the molestations of uncharitable fellow citizens, and so to become known through the land, that when the people of different creeds should be drawn around them, there would be no antagonism or bitterness.

They made a fertile garden out of this desert. The streams from the mountains were so directed and channeled as to irrigate the entire valley, and protect the crops from drought. They erected a city that our American people may well be proud of. They gave the first impetus to western emigration, and by their bold and successful plan of establishing themselves in this then hostile country, contributed greatly towards the settling and development of the great and inexhaustive West.

Have they ever shown any spirit towards the Federal Government but that of loyalty and patriotism? Did not they raise a tax of \$40,000, and pay it to the government that "the Union might be preserved" in the late sad domestic war? Are not their statute books replete with laws and enactments of obedience, submission and even affection for the Federal government? Yet Mr. Clagett is pleased to say that these Mormons have never done aught but

in opposition to the laws and representatives of the Federal government.

The "codified laws of Utah" are ample. Life, liberty and property are sacredly guarded and protected. No State in the Union has better laws than the Territory of Utah, and were this conflict of the courts determined there would be no cause of contention between the Mormons and the Gentiles.

Omaha Herald.

LANCASTER.

UTAH.

The most popular philanthropy ever known to our race was that wherein the philanthropist freed another man's slave. It was popular because cheap.

We are being treated to the same sort of Christianity in Utah at the present writing. There is a slight difference. The charity is not only cheap, but it promises to be profitable. The Mormons are guilty not of polygamy, but the far worse offense of holding valuable possessions. Every crusade against these ignorant wretches has been followed by plunder. As the plunder grows more promising the Christian enthusiasm increases in proportion. Nay, it grows in violence, for that there is danger that the opportunity to indicate our purity and their sin may escape us. This would be terrible.

It would be terrible to have this remnant of barbarism die out of itself. A great lesson would be lost to the world, and no end of plunder to the missionaries.

These missionaries are made up of border ruffians who long for Mormon mines, of Christian statesmen who steal while praying, and the Newmans of the world, who look to the good things of earth rather than to the high seats and sweet music of heaven.

The border ruffians are made up of convicts who have fled to the wilds of the West to escape punishment, and criminals hiding from conviction. They shame the beasts by their brutality and make Indian barbarism respectable. The traveler through the Territories, armed to the teeth, and sleeping, when he does sleep, with a prayer upon his lips, knows when he hits the possessions of the Mormon saints by the law, order, decency and kindness that prevail. This is offensive to the border ruffian. He dares not venture over the line. The climate of Utah is unhealthy for him.

The Christian statesmen who are troubled about polygamy, such as Schuyler Colfax and Senator Pomeroy, are such pure men they cannot abide this business of plurality in wives. It were a pity, indeed, such good men should be disturbed in the conscience by this abomination before the Lord. While these truly good men abstain from strong drinks and punish the flesh with long prayers, and receive bribes and pay bribes that the good work may prosper, they are horrified at the iniquity of more than one wife.

In this they are sustained by the Newmans. The reverend gentlemen are shocked at these ignorant people daring to marry their mistresses and attempting to make the poor things comfortable. The way to do is to put your mistress on the Government, under the civil service as it was, and when the Department throws her out, then leave the guilty wretch to starve. Serves her right, cry the pious Newmans. Let the choir sing—

"Oh, don't you remember sweet Alice,
Old Pom?"

The remedy offered by this holy alliance, for the evil, is to suspend the writ of *habeas corpus*, do away with the trial by jury, and so to amend the law governing the survey and settlement of our public domain as to rob the Mormons of their farms. All that is left of the jury trial is what the officer nominated by the Rt. Rev. Major General John P. Newman with the chimes attached, or Schuyler Colfax with the Credit Mobilier attached, or old Pom. with Sweet Alice unattached, and appointed by the President, may allow. If this officer suspects any man of the faintest proclivity for polygamous practices he is to exclude such believer from the panel; or if he have doubts, he may fetch the man up and put him under oath, and then ask him if he believes in the plurality of wives. If he responds in the affirmative, he is immediately excluded, precisely as he would be for any other expression of an opinion, and we go back to the darkened past when Catholics or Jews were excluded from juries because of their faith, or, as it was then stated, for their lack of faith.

It strikes us that in the process proposed we are not abolishing

polygamy so much as certain civil rights heretofore held rather dear to the people of this republic. So far as the Mormons are concerned we do not feel much uneasiness. They are a patient, law-abiding people, and will, long as they possibly can, suffer the persecutions heaped upon them by a cruel, heartless population of scoundrels and hypocrites. But when endurance ceases to be possible, those Mormons have it in their power to strike a blow that will amaze not only the missionaries but the people that have been quietly permitting this infamous persecution. We have had Indian wars that cost in the end a million of dollars for each Indian killed. We are promised one which will make the operations against Mr. Lo seem economical. Our great national work, the railroad that connects the Atlantic and Pacific, will not be cut, it will simply be destroyed, and all the harassing, endless bloody Indian wars may be condensed into one and then multiplied without exaggerating the cost. And when we get through we will have the grim satisfaction of knowing that it was deserved, because the Mormons were in the right. Common sense has long since settled that, while you may kill a man with a club, you cannot by that process convince him. Even Doctor Newman and Schuyler Colfax and Old Pom. know that if the Mormons were once convinced of their error they would reform. This language is more of a complimentary sort than we are wont to use. The fact is, these people do not know anything worth our knowing. But it is generally recognized that the Mormons are honest in their peculiar belief. For this there is but one remedy, and that is to convince the deluded wretches. The Reverend Newman tried it once by a little controversy with Orson Pratt at Salt Lake. Our friend the Doctor returned considerably damaged. The polygamous Pratt was too much for the Newman, so that the latter was forced to slander the patriarchs, asserting that Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were wicked men, given to all sorts of vile practices, and that he (Newman) was ashamed of them. Even this, while it shocked the Christian world, failed to convince the Mormons. So, now, the learned Newman calls loudly for a club.—*Washington Capital*, Feb. 16.

CORRESPONDENCE.

ROME, ITALY, Jan. 21, 1873.

Editor Deseret News:

We arrived here on the 15th ult. This city is built on both sides of the Tiber, about fifteen miles from where it empties into the Mediterranean. In 1867 it contained 215,000 inhabitants, of whom 6,000 were clergymen, 5,000 nuns, 4,500 Jews, 450 Protestants, 7,300 soldiers, and, in the winter season, about 25,000 visitors. In the day of its greatest prosperity, Rome exceeded two millions; in the middle of the fourteenth century, it had been reduced by disease, poverty and war, to less than twenty thousand people. What is now understood as modern Rome, is surrounded by a wall twelve miles in length, about fifty feet high, and built of brick.

The famous "seven hills" on which Rome was principally erected, are now measurably uninhabited. A few churches, monasteries, nunneries, old farm houses, gardens and vineyards occupy these hills which formerly astonished the world with marble edifices, palaces and magnificent temples; much of this glory and grandeur now lie from ten to twenty feet beneath the surface of the ground. Napoleon the Third purchased extensive grounds on which a portion of ancient Rome was built—expended large sums in excavations to aid him in his "History of the Caesars." He made many important discoveries, several of which we saw while exploring the ruins—portions of streets, temples, beautiful edifices, numerous statues, marble and granite columns, which were found buried twenty feet underground. The Italian government is now prosecuting the work commenced by Napoleon, constantly bringing to light Roman history and its antiquities. We saw sufficient of the remains of the ancient Roman Forum, the place of popular assemblies, where the orators addressed the people, to satisfy us of its former grandeur and magnificence. We stood where Anthony, in his artful speech over the murdered body of

Julius Caesar, aroused the indignation of the populace against the conspirators; and where Virginius procured his knife, and killed his daughter to preserve her from slavery. We also walked over the ground where the Sabine women rushed frantically between their husbands and fathers to prevent the impending battle.

In the Piazza di St. Pietro we saw a famous obelisk which was brought to Rome by the Emperor Caligula and placed in the Vatican Circus. It was removed in 1586 and erected on its present site under the superintendency of Domenico Fontana. This huge monument weighs nearly one million of pounds. It is said that Fontana in constructing his machines, had neglected to make allowance for the tension of the ropes, produced by the immense weight, and that at the critical moment, though the spectators had been prohibited under penalty of death from speaking or shouting, one of the eight hundred workmen cried out "aqua alle funi," i. e., water on the ropes; thus solving the difficulty. His descendants were granted important privileges for this hazardous interference. Another obelisk we noticed called the "Obelisk of the Lateran," of red granite covered with hieroglyphics, which was brought from Alexandria to the mouth of the Tiber in a vessel of three hundred oars. It is supposed to have been standing in Egypt anterior to the exodus of the Israelites, and probably is four thousand years old. It is 141 feet high, and weighs nearly 455 tons.

Some portions of the celebrated temple of Venus and Rome still remain. It was built by the Emperor Hadrian after his own design, when it was finished, he asked Apollodorus what he thought of it. The architect replying that it was very good for an Emperor. Hadrian ordered him to be beheaded.

We went to the "Tarpeian Rock," the precipice from which criminals were thrown down; there is considerable rubbish beneath, but it is still sufficiently lofty to insure unpleasant results of a fall from its summit.

There are very few monuments that exhibit more effectually the splendor of ancient Rome than the remains of the celebrated Coliseum. It was commenced by Vespasian and completed by Titus, after his conquest of the Jews. It is said that sixty thousand Jews were engaged ten years in this gigantic antique structure. After it had fallen into decay, it was used as a quarry from which were built churches and palaces until, by its consecration as holy ground, on account of the number of martyrs supposed to have suffered within its walls, this vandalism was discontinued. It seated 87,000 people, with standing room for 20,000. Its inauguration, Anno Domini 81, continued one hundred days, during which, 5,000 wild beasts and 10,000 captives were slain. Its circumference is 1041 feet, the height of the outer wall, 157, the length of the arena, 278, and its width, 177 feet, the whole superficial area, six acres. In the Museum of the Capitol, we saw a striking representation of the character of the former scenes enacted in the arena of this amphitheatre. A marble statue of a dying gladiator—a wonderful specimen of the perfection to which the art of sculpture had attained. The figure is in a reclining posture, a deep cut in the side, the blood trickling down, a broken sword lying beside it, the muscles gradually relaxing and strength failing, the lineaments of the face expressing intense anguish, yet determined resolution to conceal pain, as the poet says,

I see before me the gladiator lie;
He leans upon his hand—his manly brow
Consents to death, but conquers agony,
And his droop'd head sinks gradually low,
And through his side, the last drops, ebbing slow,
From the red gash fall heavy one by one,
Like the first of a thundershower; and now
The arena swims around him; he is gone,
Ere ceased the inhuman shout which hailed
The wretch who won."

We visited several celebrated Roman cathedrals, St. Peter's first and foremost. The area of this church is 212,321 square feet, its exterior 651 feet in length, its height from the pavement to the cross on the summit is 448 feet. It contains 290 windows, 390 statues—46 altars and 748 columns. The dome rises 318 feet above the roof, and has a circumference of 652 feet. In the seventeenth century the dome showed signs of giving way, and was

strengthened by means of huge iron hoops.

We ascend to the lantern by an easy stairway where we have a magnificent view of the surrounding country, extending to the blue waters of the Mediterranean. The ball on the summit affords room for sixteen persons though from the ground, it appears little larger than a man's hat.

Previous to the Papal States being incorporated into the Italian kingdom, it was customary on certain days in the year, to present from this church a grand spectacle—a vast illumination of the dome, facade and colonnades by 4,400 lamps. It is thought that this great display will never be repeated. The Pope has remained singularly quiet, refusing to officiate at public festivals since "Victor" took possession of Rome. Some attribute this inaction to a design to awaken sympathy and create a stirring interest in his favor with Catholic communities through the world. We were informed to-day that the Pope had just received a delegation of distinguished gentlemen from England, representing a large body of men who had solemnly engaged to render whatever assistance he might require.

We called at the American Minister's to-day—not finding him at home we left our cards with his secretary. We shall probably have an interview with him before leaving Rome. Our tour, under Mr. Cook's management, thus far, has proved perfectly satisfactory. Our railroad transits have invariably been first-class, and our hotels generally. We remain here three days longer, then go to Naples.

LORENZO SNOW.

NAPLES, Italy, Jan. 28, 1873.

Editor Deseret News:

I will now mention a few more items which came under our observation while in Rome. We were much interested in the Vatican Palace, the residence of the Pope. It embraces an immense area, 1,151 feet in length, 767 in breadth, eight grand stair cases, 200 smaller ones, twenty courts and 4,422 apartments. It contains a vast collection of the most celebrated marble statuary and paintings in the world.

The ingenuity and wealth of the Roman pontiffs during many centuries have been employed to make this palace suitable for the accommodation of the representatives of St. Peter in regard to splendor and magnificence.

The distinguished artist, Michael Angelo, was engaged a number of years in decorating some of these apartments with his best paintings. One of these we noticed in particular was a large picture in fresco, covering one end of a lofty room, fifty feet wide; it is called the "Last Judgment." Michael Angelo labored nearly eight years upon this work. Pope Paul III manifested much interest in this painting, and to encourage the artist, went to his studio, accompanied by ten of his cardinals, which was considered an extraordinary condescension on the part of "His Holiness." He wished this picture painted in oil, but the artist would not consent, declaring that "oil painting was an occupation fit only for women and idlers and such as had plenty of time to throw away." In the upper part of the picture, is the Savior seated in the act of pronouncing judgment. On one side are a multitude of saints and patriarchs, on the other, the martyrs with the symbols of their sufferings, St. Catharine with the wheel on which she was broken, St. Sebastian, with the arrows by which he was killed, St. Bartholomew, carrying his skin, &c. Below is a group of angels sounding the last trumpet, and carrying the books of judgment. On the left is represented the condition of the damned—the demons are seen coming out of the pit to seize them as they struggle to escape, their features expressing the utmost despair, at the same time exhibiting passions of rage, anguish and defiance. On the opposite side the saints are rising slowly from their graves, aided by angels to ascend into the regions of the blest.

Paul IV was displeased with the nudity of the figures and intended to destroy the whole. On hearing this objection of the Pope, Michael Angelo said, "Tell the Pope that this is but a small affair, and easy to be remedied—let him reform the world, and pictures will reform themselves." The Pope engaged Volterra to cover the most conspi-